

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (original): A printing apparatus configured to print on a media and minimize distortion of the media during printing, the apparatus comprising:
  - a printing zone for printing in a substantially horizontal orientation; and
  - a heated media deflector configured to guide and dry the media, the heated media deflector located downstream of the horizontal printing zone.
2. (canceled): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
  - a substantially vertical feeding path downstream of the heated media deflector wherein the heated media deflector is a transition feeding area between the horizontal printing zone and the vertical path.
3. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the heated media deflector comprises;
  - a plastic support portion; and
  - a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic support portion, the sheet metal portion configured to contact and guide the media.
4. (original): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the sheet metal portion slopes downwards at about 10° below the horizontal.
5. (original): The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a heating resistor heating the sheet metal to dry the media, the heating resistor being attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal portion.

6. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plastic support portion comprises a plastic extrusion for directing the media into ~~the~~ a vertical feeding path.

7. (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plastic support portion comprises an insulating plank preventing heat loss.

8. (original): The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a pair of lateral hooks on the insulated plank attaching the sheet metal portion to the plastic support portion.

9. (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the printing zone comprises a printhead arrangement printing on the media and a platen for supporting the media during printing.

10. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the vertical feeding path includes an exit where the media exits the printing apparatus.

11. (currently amended): A method of reducing distortion in media during an inkjet printing process when the media travels from a substantially horizontal printing plane to a substantially vertical feeding path, the method comprising:

printing an image on the media in the substantially horizontal printing plane;

feeding the media in the substantially vertical feeding path after printing the image; and

heating the media, by passing ~~it~~the media over a heated media deflector in a transition area between the substantially horizontal printing plane and the substantially vertical feeding path.

12. (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein ~~the step of~~ printing comprises printing water-based ink from an inkjet printhead and providing a paper-based web media.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein ~~the step of~~ heating the media comprises producing an amount of heat to evaporate excess water from the water-based ink.

14. (canceled): A method of reducing distortion in inkjet printers, the method comprising:  
    detecting environmental conditions;  
    determining print mode parameters; and  
    setting a heating temperature for heating the media based on the detected environmental conditions and the determined print mode parameters.

15. (canceled): The method of claim 14, wherein the step of detecting the environmental conditions includes detecting the temperature and the humidity in the printer.

16. (canceled): The method of claim 15, wherein the print mode parameters include plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate, and ink fired per scan.

17. (canceled): The method of claim 16, wherein the heating temperature is approximately 50°C to 70°C.

18. (currently amended): A heated media deflector for an inkjet printer comprising:

a deflector that includes

\_\_\_\_\_ a plastic support portion;

\_\_\_\_\_ a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic portion; and

\_\_\_\_\_ a heating resistor attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal.

19. (original): The heated media deflector of claim 18, wherein the sheet metal portion slopes downwards at about 10° below the horizontal.

20. (original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plastic support portion comprises a plastic extrusion for smoothly directing a media to a vertical feeding path.

21. (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the plastic support portion comprises an insulating plank for preventing heat loss.

22. (original): The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a pair of lateral hooks on the insulated plank for attaching the sheet metal portion to the plastic support portion.

23. (new): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a system to

at least one of

detect environmental conditions, and  
determine print mode parameters; and  
set a heating temperature of the media deflector based on the  
detected environmental conditions and/or the determined print mode  
parameters.

24. (new): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the environmental conditions  
comprise at least one of the ambient temperature and the ambient humidity.

25. (new): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the print mode parameters  
comprise at least one of plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning  
rate, and ink fired per scan.

26. (new): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the heating temperature is  
approximately 50°C to 70°C.

27. (new): The method of claim 11 wherein the heating comprises setting a  
heating temperature for heating the media based on at least one of  
environmental conditions and print mode parameters.

28. (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the environmental conditions  
includes the ambient temperature and the ambient humidity.

29. (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the print mode parameters  
include at least one of plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate,  
and ink fired per scan.

30. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the heating further comprises  
heating the media to a temperature of approximately 50°C to 70°C.